

ABSTRACT

In a production process of a poly(arylene sulfide), a mixture containing an organic amide solvent, an alkali metal hydrosulfide and an alkali metal hydroxide in a proportion of 0.95 to 1.05 mol per mol of the alkali metal hydrosulfide is heated and dehydrated in a dehydration step. After the dehydration step, as needed, an alkali metal hydroxide and water are added to control the total number of moles of the alkali metal hydroxide, and the number of moles of water so as to amount to 1.00 to 1.09 per mol of a sulfur source including the alkali metal hydrosulfide existing in the system and to 0.5 to 2.0 per mol of the charged sulfur source, respectively. A polymerization step is conducted by a two-stage process.